

Application No. 10/070,819

Reply to Office Action of September 16, 2004

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 10A-D, 11 and 12 A-C.

These sheets, which include Figs. 10A-D, 11 and 12 A-C, replace the original sheets including Figs. 10A-D, 11 and 12 A-C.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (3)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are currently pending in the application; Claims 1-5 having been amended, and new dependent Claims 6 and 7 having been added, by way of the present response.

Applicants respectfully assert that support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and that therefore no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action acknowledgement was made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119; corrected drawings were required; the disclosure was objected to; Claim 2 was objected to; Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112; and Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Admitted Prior Art in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,909,102 to Stone, III, et al. (Stone).

Initially, Applicants express thanks for the Examiner's indication that Claim 3 recites allowable subject matter, such that the claims although objected to would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicants have so-rewritten Claim 3. Thus, in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of newly independent Claim 3.

As stated above acknowledgement was made of a claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119. Applicants respectfully note, however, that the Office Action summary indicates that a copy of a certified copy of Japanese patent application 2000-208984 was received from the International Bureau, while page 2 of the Office Action states that a certified copy of the Japanese application is still required. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner advise Applicants, in the next U.S. Patent Office communication, if a certified copy of the Japanese application has not been received.

As stated above corrected drawings were required, in which Figures 10A-D, 11, and 12A-C are designated as "Prior Art." In response, as shown in the attached replacement sheets, Applicants have so-designated these figures.

As stated above the disclosure was objected to because of informalities. In response, Applicants have amended the specification to state "contacts," in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestion. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

As stated above Claim 2 was objected to because of informalities. In response, Applicants have amended the claim to recite "an under surface," in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

As stated above Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In response, Applicants have amended the claim to recite "an under surface." Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

As stated above Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Admitted Prior Art in view of Stone. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to a receptacle for battery-using apparatuses. Independent Claim 1 recites a plug inserting/removing portion where a plurality of signal post contact portions is disposed in parallel with each other which come in contact with a signal contact of an external plug. A signal post connecting portion is on a rear surface side of the plug inserting/removing portion and is connected to a circuit board. An electrode disposing portion is on a side surface of the plug inserting/removing portion and is provided with a contact for a battery including plate springs protruding in parallel with each other on

the rear surface side of the plug inserting/removing portion. The contact includes a board connecting portion connected to the circuit board. A slant strip coupled with the board connecting portion protrudes toward the rear surface side of the electrode disposing portion, and is flexible toward the electrode disposing portion. An electrode contact portion formed at one tip of the slant strip has a U-shape protruding toward the rear surface side of the electrode disposing portion, and comes in contact with the battery electrode. The contact is provided, at a site extending from the board connecting portion to the slant strip, with a vertical strip disposed along a vertical inner wall surface on a front surface side in a housing space into which the contact is pressured.

Regarding the rejection of independent Claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that neither the Admitted Prior Art nor Stone teaches or suggests, the claimed features of a contact for a battery provided, at a site extending from a board connecting portion to a slant strip, with a vertical strip disposed along a vertical inner wall surface on a front surface side in a housing space into which the contact is pressured, as recited in independent Claim 1.

In particular, independent Claim 1 recites “the contact is provided, at a site extending from the board connecting portion to the slant strip, with a vertical strip disposed along a vertical inner wall surface on a front surface side in a housing space into which the contact is pressured.” Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn, and the allowance of independent Claim 1.

Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 2 and 4-7 are allowable for the same reasons as independent Claim 1 from which they depend, as well as for their own features. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of dependent Claims 2 and 4-7.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-7 is earnestly solicited.

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Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

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(OSMMN 06/04)

Respectfully submitted,

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